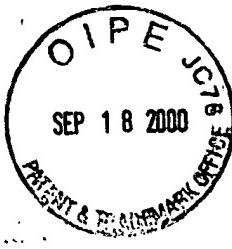


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Attorney Docket No. A-2-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

PHILIP E. EGGERS et al.

Application No.: 09/098,205

Filed: July 27, 1998

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
ELECTROSURGICAL TISSUE
TREATMENT IN CONDUCTIVE FLUID

) Examiner: L. Cohen

) Art Unit: 3739

) AMENDMENT

) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE -
EXAMINING GROUP 3739

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Sir:

In response to the Communication filed August 30, 2000, please amend the subject application further as described below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1
E | 14. 90. (Four Times Amended) The method of claim 80, wherein the return electrode is located on a distal end of an instrument shaft, further comprising an insulating matrix on the instrument shaft between the return electrode and the [terminal] electrode terminal, the insulating matrix comprising an inorganic material.

E | 29. 158. (Three Times Amended) The method of claim 142 further including

positioning a distal end of a fluid supply shaft adjacent the active electrode, the delivering step

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comprising directing the electrically conductive fluid through an inner lumen in the fluid supply shaft that is electrically connected to the return electrode and discharging the fluid through an open distal end of the supply shaft towards the active electrode.

REMARKS

Claims 80, 81, 83-102 and 138-158 are pending. Claims 90 and 158 have been amended to correct the typo and claim dependency. Applicant believes that all claims are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 408-736-0224.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Raffle
Reg. No. 38,585

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